1. (Amended) An expression vector comprising a vaccinia virus with reduced pathogenicity in an animal host which comprises an E3L gene having a deletion of the region encoding amino acids 184-190 of the E3L gene product wherein said vector further comprises exogenous DNA operably linked to regulatory elements that control expression of said exogenous DNA.

5. (Amended) A method of making a recombinant gene product comprising subjecting an expression vector comprising a vaccinia virus with reduced pathogenicity in an animal host which comprises an E3L gene having a deletion of the region encoding amino acids 184-190 of the E3L gene product and wherein said vector further comprises exogenous DNA that encodes said recombinant gene product operably linked to regulatory elements that control expression thereof, to conditions whereby said recombinant gene product is expressed.

Please **add** the following new claim:

7. (New) A method of inducing a protective immune response in a subject comprising introducing to the subject an expression vector comprising a vaccinia virus with reduced pathogenicity in an animal host which comprises an E3L gene having a deletion of the region encoding amino acids 184-190 of the E3L gene product, wherein said vector further comprises exogenous DNA operably linked to regulatory elements that control expression of said exogenous DNA.